

by the legislature in the district of St Francis. From the well known talents, knowledge of law, and the scientific and useful acquirements of this gentleman, we entertain a confident expectation that the developement of the great natural advantages of the townships will receive stimulus,\* and that the public at large, and the people of this country in particular, will derive as much benefit from that gentleman's influence in the diffusion of useful information as from his upright, effectual and advantageous administration of justice.—*Quebec Gazette.*

*No one ever cries "stinking fish."*

An Enquiry into the right of the crown to a monopoly of coals and minerals in Nova Scotia is announced to be published by John Lawson, Esq. barrister at law. In like manner the reservations that are made in the grants given in this province of lands, in free and common soccage, of mines, and minerals, and in some instances of timber fit for naval purposes ought to be made a matter of serious enquiry. I do not think the crown has such a right; considering the lands the king grants in these colonies, to be held by him not as his property, but in trust for the nation; and, by having the power to reserve to himself all mines and minerals, the crown might become possessed of a revenue, and accumulate a treasure, actually belonging to the nation, over which the nation would have no controul; a contingency that is always endeavored to be jealously guarded against by the principles of our constitution. Upon similar grounds I am inclined also to contend that the crown has no right to lease the King's domain, so called, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, under the denomination of the King's posts; the injurious nature of which leases, and the monopolies that are encouraged and authorized by them, incalculably retard the settlement, commerce, and prosperity of a most extended line of coast, and an almost boundless extent of interior country. This is one of the questions I have long been wishful to enter upon; but, from the abundance of other arrears of matter, I must defer it, *sine die.*

\* The learned justice, being himself a good judge of a stimulus, and there being plenty of potatoe-whiskey distilled in the townships, no doubt will find himself quite at home in his Inferior District.

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